[1st November 1962

Bus owners

* 201 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of individuals or firms who run more than 20 buses in the State as on 1st July 1962?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : Seven individuals and twenty firms.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, since there are about 27 people who run more buses, is there any proposal to limit the number of buses that a firm or individual can own?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is not necessary to do so.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Now that the income from the running of the buses, as the Government are aware, is very great, why should the Government allow a particular individual or a few firms to amass all wealth by running more buses and by their being granted more routes?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Bus permits are granted according to well-established rules, and if a person is eligible for permit, then there is no reason why he should be deprived of it. The efficiency of operation brings profits and it is not the number buses that brings profits.

Bifurcation of Salem district

* 202 *Q.*—SRI R. VENKATACHALAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate the Salem district and make Krishnagiri the district headquarters for North Salem district; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (a) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to bifur ate Salem district territorially. A Special Officer in the grade of a Collector has been appointed to work out the scheme. The question of location of the headquarters of the new bifurcated district will be examined only after the receipt of the report from the Special Officer.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : What is the reason for this bifurcation?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The districts are found to be unwieldy and too large.